

fading since his retirement from the National Guard in 1999. Gerry has consistently supported his fellow service members by storing the possessions of deploying soldiers, repairing and donating vehicles to veterans unable to afford their own, or helping place transitioning soldiers in civilian jobs, sometimes at his own business. Since 9/11, Gerry has been a regular, consistent attendee at "Send Off" and "Welcome Home" events at the Hartford Armory for Connecticut National Guard units deployed to the Middle East. In August of 2010, Gerry also completed the grueling "Legacy Run to Reno", a fundraiser to benefit military children who lost a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Gerry is an invaluable asset to eastern Connecticut's veteran community, and a shining example of every honorable quality we see in our service members. Next week, he will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame—the latest in a long list of honors and awards for which he is more than deserving.

CONGRATULATING EHCMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) Workforce Development Committee for being awarded the Visionary Award from the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Board of Directors.

This award honors individuals and organizations whose work on key regional issues has expanded economic and social opportunity in our community. The Workforce Development Committee has raised \$100,000 in scholarship funds for Lee College and San Jacinto College. These scholarships will help train tomorrow's petrochemical and manufacturing leaders. Strong investment in the future of these industries creates opportunity and prosperity that will benefit the entire American economy in the long run.

I thank the Workforce Development Committee for their investment in our community that supports future opportunities for so many businesses and families. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the EHCMA Workforce Development Committee for receiving the Economic Alliance's Visionary Award.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA RIVKA CHERRY AND DANIEL JOSEPH CHAVIN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR WEDDING

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in recognizing Miss Jessica Rivka Cherry and Mr. Daniel Joseph Chavin, as they celebrate their dedication to each other and to their future together.

Jessica and Daniel celebrated their commitment to each other on Sunday, November 16, 2014, in the greatest city in America, my hometown, Chicago, IL.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both families share in the happiness of this union. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them the best as they begin their new life together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR J. HILL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Arthur J. Hill, who passed away on November 4, 2014 at the age of 99. Arthur was a successful businessman, war hero, and community volunteer who made his community and country a better place through his dedication to his service.

Arthur was born in Coos Bay, Oregon where he attended local schools, and then continued on to study engineering at the University of Oregon. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, at the age of 27 he volunteered for the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 146th Engineers Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander, which is a position that he kept until the end of the Second World War when he retired with the rank of Captain.

During his campaign in World War II, Arthur worked tirelessly for the U.S. Army. Arthur's battalion built and operated an assault training center consisting of exact duplications of German fortifications, which was replicated from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the Normandy landing beaches. He also participated in four additional European Campaigns in Northern France, Ardennes and Alsace, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

In recognition of his efforts in training 65 civil engineers to assist in the reconstruction of the town of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, the Czech Government awarded Arthur the Czech Military Medal. He was also awarded the Czech Presidential Medal on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, and was chosen as the recipient of the first annual "Hero of the Valley Award," which is given to a distinguished military veteran in the San Joaquin Valley.

Upon returning home from serving our country, Art met and married his wife, Betty Jane "BJ"; the couple enjoyed over 50 years of happy marriage until she passed away in 1998. After the war, Arthur went on to work in the oil industry until 1980, when he retired as president of Hill Oil Company. He then worked at the Veterans Memorial Museum from 1992 until 2011 where he served as Director for ten years. The Veterans Memorial Museum is considered by many to be one of the finest military museums in the country. Art was also a member of the Fresno Rotary Club for over 50 years and was Commander of the American Legion in Fresno.

Arthur loved to spend time with veterans, and cared for them so much that in 2010, he established the "Veterans of the Central Valley Fund" at the Fresno Regional Foundation.

This fund supports the Veterans Memorial Museum and other projects benefitting veterans. Apart from serving the community, Arthur and his wife Betty Jane loved to spend their time traveling the world. Arthur is survived by his son Brad and his wife Audrey, and their daughter Carly and her husband Keith Berry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHAISTA MAHMOOD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a great Virginian, an 8th District constituent and my dear friend, Shaista Mahmood.

It's been decades since Shaista first came to our country from Pakistan with her new husband Rafat (Ray), her commitment to her adopted home is matched by none. All throughout Northern Virginia, life is improving thanks to the work of the Mahmoods. From their humble beginnings starting at the age of 23 with their first business in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, they've been important members of the small business community in the 8th District.

But it has been Shaista's charitable work for causes around the world that is most profound. In fact, the organizations to which she has devoted her time are too numerous to list. Whether it's supporting children recovering from life in war-torn regions of our globe at Seeds of Peace or securing positive change for women as worldwide economic drivers at Vital Voices, Shaista's commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and children is unmatched.

I've been honored to share this commitment to so many of these causes, but none more so than her devotion to improving women's and children's rights around the globe. Hers has been a silent hand at the wheel driving forces for change all around the globe, demanding equal rights for the many who are treated unjustly as a matter of course and tradition every day.

These are the very issues that have inspired so many of us to devote decades of our life to public service. But while we are welcomed and honored in DC and throughout the country as public servants, Shaista asks for no such recognition. She is proud to let her good work stand as testament alone to the countless hours of commitment she has spent advancing these global issues.

Since we first met years ago, thanks in small part to her delicious Pakistani cooking, the roots she has planted in Northern Virginia are deep and wide. Along with Ray, Shaista has opened her home to countless organizations, including elected officials at every level from across the political spectrum. We are all fortunate to call Shaista our friend, and for many, our inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me today in celebrating Shaista's commitment to making this world a better place all within it. I'm honored to call her a constituent and even more honored to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL
LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Low Income Housing Coalition, or "NLIHC," on its 40th Anniversary.

NLIHC is the only national advocacy organization solely focused on the housing needs of extremely low income households—that is, households with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income.

While numerous organizations concentrate on federal housing policy, NLIHC is unique because of its sole focus on the needs of extremely low income people, the only population experiencing an absolute shortage of affordable housing. NLIHC remains firm to its mission, even at times when doing so is not popular.

Since its inception, NLIHC has been a leader in the effort to address the housing needs of those with the lowest incomes. From the time that Cushing N. Dolbeare founded the Ad Hoc Low Income Housing Coalition, a predecessor to NLIHC, the organization has worked to better educate constituents about when and how to make their voices heard.

Ms. Dolbeare authored or co-authored dozens of articles, books and reports, most notably a widely-cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and the wages of low income people. This publication continues to be relied upon on Capitol Hill, and the data included in it are instrumental in making the case for continued federal support for housing programs that reach those in our society with the very lowest incomes.

NLIHC has found through its research that for every 100 extremely low income renter households, there are only 31 affordable and available units. This shortage worsens every year and exists in every state in the country. The need is particularly acute given current funding for HUD programs, which is only enough to reach one in four eligible households. Households who cannot get assistance, even though they are eligible, must spend the majority of their meager incomes on housing, leaving very little for other expenses. Often, something like a medical emergency or job loss leaves a household at risk of experiencing homelessness or another unstable housing situation.

To address the housing shortage, NLIHC's most notable achievement to date has been its work towards creating a National Housing Trust Fund in 2008. The NHTF was initially to be funded by contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The contributions were temporarily suspended in 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. The Trust Fund, once it is capitalized, will provide the largest investment in over 40 years for the production, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing for extremely low income households. It would jumpstart construction in our communities—providing both jobs and sustainable housing opportunities to moderate and low-income people.

I have been eager to see the Housing Trust Fund funded, and I call on my colleagues to find additional sources of funding from outside

of the appropriations process, to capitalize it. The NHTF, funded to scale, is the most promising way for our nation to end the affordable housing shortage which exists in every state in the country, and advance on the progress we are already making as a country towards ending homelessness.

In addition, NLIHC has been a leading voice in assuring that the rights of renters and extremely low income households are protected as Congress addressed foreclosures.

With hundreds of members across the country, and consistently incisive research and policy analysis, NLIHC is a respected voice in Washington, D.C. that has helped produce policies impacting the lives of millions. I congratulate NLIHC on its 40th Anniversary, and I look forward to working with NLIHC in the future to address the housing needs of the very poorest Americans. There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but I have no doubt that with NLIHC as a partner, we are up to the task.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR JOHN
KIRIAKOU

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for a Presidential pardon for John Kiriakou. Mr. Kiriakou is an American hero. A 15 year CIA veteran, he was decorated and recognized more than a dozen times for his outstanding work in the always-demanding intelligence world, served in dangerous Middle East posts and helped lead the team in Pakistan that captured our first high value Al Qaeda target during the biggest coordinated operation in Agency counter-terrorism history.

John Kiriakou is also a devoted family man to his wife and five children, a church-going member of the Greek-American community, a best-selling author and a serious-minded former Congressional foreign policy aide.

John Kiriakou is a whistleblower, as well. The first American intelligence officer to officially and on-record reveal that the U.S. was in the torture business as a matter of White House policy under President Bush. In confirming what the American media and policymakers were hearing whispered—that waterboarding and other enhanced interrogation techniques were a matter of standard military and intelligence procedures—he helped begin an intense and overdue debate over whether torture violated international law, tarnished our higher American principles and undermined the critical need for reliable, actionable information.

And John Kiriakou is a convicted felon, serving a 2½ year plea bargained sentence in a Pennsylvania federal prison. The charge against him is violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, whereby John answered a question from a U.S. reporter who was duplicitously fronting for lawyers defending Al Qaeda prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and in the process unintentionally confirmed the classified identity of a CIA colleague. A colleague who, by the way, was being erroneously labeled as an enhanced interrogation techniques torturer.

All four of these realities about John are intertwined. He is not a spy nor a turncoat, he

did not sell secrets to an enemy or act to hurt U.S. national security. But John did shine a critical spotlight on a CIA practice that many wanted kept in the shadows and he did challenge the authority of those who authorized, oversaw, and encouraged the use of waterboarding and other acts of torture. And he did this with the moral authority of someone who served inside the intelligence world, refused an invitation to be trained in waterboarding and other like methods, knew and loved the rank-and-file men and women who sacrifice family life, safety, and prosperity for the mission of gathering and assessing secrets that might threaten American interests and lives.

The real issue here is the extremely selective prosecution of John and the ongoing efforts to intimidate him from talking about our intelligence community's misfires. Even former CIA Director Leon Panetta now concedes he accidentally revealed classified information to the writer of Zero Dark Thirty, but faces no legal ramifications. Jose Rodriguez, the CIA's former head of the Clandestine Service, admits to deciding without any legal authorization to erase videotapes of torture sessions so they could never be used in U.S. courts, but has never been forced to answer for this destruction of evidence.

Whatever John's misdeeds—and he admits that answering that reporter's questions was ill-advised and naïve—he has more than paid for them. After fifteen years of service to his country, the personal risks and costs of a life in the intelligence world, the legal double-standard applied, and now two years in prison John Kiriakou deserves a Presidential pardon so his record can be cleared, just as this country is trying to heal from a dark chapter in its history.

HONORING ALFONSO J. ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alfonso J. Ortiz, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

Alfonso's New Mexico roots run deep—he is a direct descendant of a Conquistador during the time of Diego De Vargas who served as Spanish governor for the New Spain territory of Santa Fe de Nuevo México. Alfonso would carry on this legacy. From the beginning, Alfonso displayed an impassioned sense of duty, pride and commitment to those he loved, his community and our country. At 17 years old, Alfonso proudly enlisted in the United States Army serving with honor and distinction in World War II.

Alfonso would embark on a 30 year career as a Civil Service Employee with the United States Post Office (USPS). Starting out as a Rural Route Letter Carrier, Alfonso ascended through the ranks and at one point supervised all the mail carriers in Santa Fe. Alfonso was a man of great integrity and revered by his employees. Whenever a letter carrier passed by, they would remind his children of what a wonderful boss he was; they would do anything in the world for him because they knew he never asked of them anything he would not do himself.